

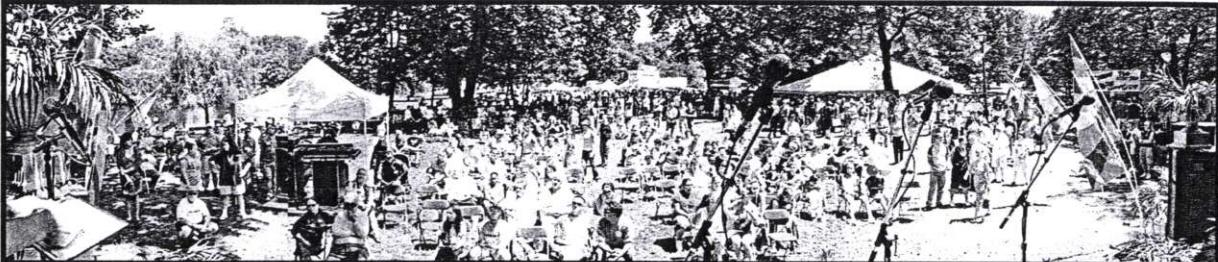
VALLEY FREE PRESS

THE LEHIGH VALLEY'S
GAY & LESBIAN OPINION & NEWS PAPER

VOL. 7 NO. 7

LATE AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER 2004

SERVING THE LEHIGH VALLEY'S GAY, LESBIAN, BISEXUAL AND TRANSGENDER COMMUNITY SINCE 1998!



JUNE GREATER LEHIGH VALLEY PRIDE FESTIVAL
DRAWS 4000 -- SEE PHOTOS ON PAGES C AND D.

ALLENTOWN CITY GOVERNMENT APPEALS DECISION ON ANTI-DISCRIMINATION ORDINANCE ORDINANCE'S PROTECTIONS WILL STAY IN PLACE AS CITY FIGHTS FOR REINSTATEMENT OF ORDINANCE

Top lawyers representing the City, lead by Dan Anders of Pepper Hamilton LLP, are confident that the Anti-Discrimination Ordinance of the City of Allentown, which protects the rights of GLBT citizens in employment, housing and public accommodations, will regain recognition in the higher courts.

COMMUNITY MOURNS
MARY JANE "ALICIA" SCHOLL
SEE PAGE 2

SPECIAL 12
PAGE ISSUE



DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION
DELEGATE DONNA CRUCIANI
WITH CONGRESSWOMAN
TAMMY BALDWIN
SEE DONNA'S ACCOUNT OF THE
CONVENTION ON PAGES A & B

19TH ANNUAL FACT
SUMMER GAMES
FACT AT RAINBOW MT
SEPT. 12, BEGINS NOON
READ ALL ABOUT IT ON PAGE D

GLBT Hotline
Greater Lehigh Valley
READ ABOUT IT ON PAGE 6

What's That About?

Readers write or email "What's That About" editors with questions about gay and lesbian issues.

Dear WTA: So, is there a police hate mail policy in Allentown or not?

Answer: Yes, the Allentown Police Department policy for investigating hate mail went into effect on April 29. It requires officers to retrieve the hate mail from the home of the recipient, file a detailed incident report and notify their shift commanders. Allentown Human Relation Commissioners confirm that the Allentown police are fully aware of the policy and will follow the protocol when hatermail recipients call the police. At this time, only Allentown has a policy.

According to the Pennsylvania Crimes Code, someone can be charged with harassment when he or she "(4) communicates to or about such other person any lewd, lascivious, threatening or obscene words, language, drawings or caricatures;" Or "(5) communicates repeatedly in an anonymous manner."

PA-GALA HAS TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED ITS FALL FUNDRAISER FOR SATURDAY, OCTOBER 2. WATCH FOR DETAILS.

FILING OF NON-PROFITARTICLES OF INCORPORATION NOTICE:

Notice is hereby given, that articles of non-profit incorporation have been filed with the department of State of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, pursuant to the provisions of 19 PA code Ch. 41 of the Law of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, as amended.

NAME: Pennsylvania Diversity Network with its principal place of business at: 427 1/2 North 9th Street, Allentown PA 18102

Names and addresses of all trustees are:

Elizabeth Bradbury, President

427 1/2 N. 9th Street, Allentown PA 18102

Gail Erich, Treasurer

541 N. 8th Street, Allentown PA 18102

Patricia Sullivan, Secretary

427 1/2 N. 9th Street, Allentown PA 18102

Robert Meek, Member at Large

2133 W. Washington Street, Allentown PA 18104

Robert Roush, Member at Large

603 N. 6th Street, Allentown PA 18102

The certificate has been/will be filed on (or after) the 2 day of August, 2004.

COMMUNITY MOURNS ALICIA

Mary Jane "Alicia" Scholl, formerly known as Mojo, died Friday, July 30, in the VNA Hospice at St. Lukes at the age of 56. She was born and raised in Allentown, lived in womens' collectives in Philadelphia in the 70s, then moved to California for 10 years. She returned to the Lehigh Valley in 1993. She had a masters degree in music education from the College of New Jersey, Trenton, and taught, performed, conducted and recorded during her lifetime. Her greatest pleasure was performing improvisational jazz on her flute. She always considered herself an activist, fighting for feminist, political, cultural and environmental issues. After returning to the Lehigh Valley, she conducted womens' circles, taught re-evaluation counseling (a peer counseling technique) and taught self-empowerment classes, most recently in the Institute for Womens' Development at Northampton Community College and Vitality, Emmaus. She shared a home with Rae Ann Ohlinger in Allentown. A memorial service was held at on August 14, at Circle of Light, Stockerton. Contributions: May be sent to Rae Ann Ohlinger, c/o Trexler Funeral Home, Allentown.

2

RAGS TO RICHES TAKE THE FIRST STEP

by Denise McKelvey

Dear Denise, My partner died 5 years ago, I'm 63 and living on Social Security. We struggled to pay off our home, which I did about 3 years ago. It is comfortable and I would prefer to stay in it. I am paying about \$9,000 per year for heart medications. I am having a difficult time keeping up with my day-to-day expenses. Would you have any suggestions for my financial situation? **Emotionally and Financially Frustrated**

Dear Frustrated, Please accept my sympathy for the loss of your partner. After working so hard all your life, you deserve some peace of mind, but health costs can be a real burden. However, there may be some options for you to improve your financial situation.

One way to increase your monthly income would be to tap into the equity in your home, without leaving your comfortable living quarters. There is a fairly complicated and little-known product called a reverse mortgage. Reverse mortgages were created about two decades ago for individuals who have lots of home equity but too little income in retirement.

In a nutshell, a reverse mortgage enables you to borrow a sum of money based on the equity you have in your home. Equity is the portion of your home's value that you have paid for and therefore own. In your case, one hundred percent of the market value. The loan is repaid when you pass away or when you move out of the house for good, using the proceeds from the sale of the house. If the loan balance is less than the value of the house your heirs will get whatever is left after the loan is paid off. If the loan balance is greater than the value of the house, they have no obligation to give the lender anything but the home.

While this sounds easy, reverse mortgages are complicated. First, there are several ways to convert the equity to cash. You can get a lump sum up front, or you can get a line of credit. There is a combination of a lump sum and monthly cash available depending on your needs and the lender, the type of loan you choose, your age and personal circumstances. You must be 62 to qualify for a reverse mortgage. The lender will try to calculate your passing. Should you live beyond expectations, the lender will be responsible for the shortfall, not your heirs.

Reverse mortgages also are relatively expensive. The typical fees and insurance costs will add up to more than 4 percent of the home's value. One way to avoid the fees, would be to sell your home to a relative with an agreement to remain in the home for as long as you live.

Denise McKelvey, CFS is a financial advisor for American Express Financial located at 5100 Tilghman Street Suite 170 Allentown PA 18104. Please mail or email questions to denise.m.mckelvey@aexp.com. Information in this article may not be suitable for your specific financial situation.

MCC'S NEW STYLE

Starting the second Sunday of September, The Metropolitan Community Church of the Lehigh Valley's morning worship service, at 10:30 a.m., will feature contemporary music and a new approach to worship. MCCLV's evening service, at 6pm, will remain the same, maintaining a more traditional style. MCCLV now offers a Children's Ministry on Sunday mornings complete with age-appropriate Bible stories, arts, crafts and more.

For more information and directions to the church, contact MCCLV at 610-709-8800 or mcclehighvalley@yahoo.com

FOR LEGAL INFO ON 2ND PARENT ADOPTION

...or if your lawyer has questions call The Center for Lesbian and Gay Civil Rights in Philadelphia toll free at 1-866-LGBT-LAW.

Valley Free Press does not discriminate on the bases listed in the anti-discrimination statement on page 8, and asks that organizations or individuals which request VFP to publish information about their events maintain a similar policy.

HOT NEWS

HAVEN YOUTH GROUP

HAVEN MEETINGS : every Wednesday from 7:00 - 9:00PM at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 424 Center Street, Bethlehem. Meetings are open to GLBTAQ youth ages 14 - 20. For information: havenfacilitators @yahoogroups.com or 610-868-2153.

3

CURIOUS ABOUT EARTH-BASED RELIGIONS?

CUUPS, the Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans, is a diverse group that meets to discuss, share ideas, and learn more about all aspects of Earth-based religions, such as Paganism, Wicca, & Native American & Celtic religions. Make new friends, participate in stimulating conversation, or simply satisfy your curiosity. All are welcome.

CUUPS will be meeting after the regular Unitarian Universalist Church service (approx. noon) at the UUCLV, (424 Center St., Bethlehem) on Sunday, August 29. All other CUUPS meetings are normally held every 4th Sunday of the month. To learn more, email uuclv_cuups@yahoogroups.com or contact the UUCLV.

PRIDE ANNUAL MEETING

Pride will hold its Annual Meeting on Thursday, September 30 at 7pm. The meeting will include a year in review presentation, review of the Annual budget and voting for new board members. Community members who attended at least one Pride meeting in the past year may vote at the meeting. Visit Pride's website at www.prideglv.org for meeting location.

PRIDE BOARD SEARCH

Pride of the Greater Lehigh Valley seeks interested individuals to join its board. The expanded board will provide further organizational input, aid in various tasks including fundraising, and bring new skills and capabilities to the organization. Help support the Greater Lehigh Valley Queer community and be involved in the Pride in the Park celebration, Lehigh Valley Queer Film Festival and other events and programs throughout the year.

Interested individuals should send a letter of intent and resume to Pride of the Greater Lehigh Valley at PO Box 20804, Lehigh Valley, PA 18002-0712. Past volunteer or committee participation is preferred before applying. Deadline for applicants is September 1, 2004. Applicants will be voted on at the Annual Meeting on September 30.

CHORUS SEEKS DIRECTOR

The Lehigh Valley Gay Men's Chorus, a 20 member TTBB chorus, is seeking qualified candidates for the positions of Artistic Director and Principal Accompanist. Those interested are invited to submit a resume to P.O. Box 20712, Lehigh Valley, PA 18002-0712. For more information, contact the LVGMC at 610-366-3320 or visit www.lvgmc.org.

RAINBOW GOLF TOURNAMENT

On September 11, the Rainbow Organization will host its 4th Annual Golf tournament at Shepherd Hills Golf Course in Wescosville, PA. Proceeds will benefit the AIDS Services Center, whose goal is to "ensure dignity, security and stability to people infected and affected by HIV/AIDS."

Join the group for a fun day (you don't have to be a good golfer), and/or attend the after tournament dinner, to help support this great organization. For more information, please contact Denise @ 610-216-5095.

AHRC DINNER

The Allentown Human Relations Commission Annual Awards Dinner will be October 14, 5:30 p.m. at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, 902 Hamilton St, Allentown. Tickets: \$35 per person, For info: Lauren Giguere - 610-439-5965, or Nicholas Butterfield - 610-437-7616.

VIA MEDIA

Grace Episcopal Church invites the GLBT community to participate in Via Media*, discussions on today's most crucial ethical and spiritual topics in an open and supportive atmosphere. Contact The Rev. Patrick Malloy, Ph.D., by September 13 for information and reservations. Three sessions. Seating limited. Food and beverages provided. Phone: 610-435-0782 info@graceallentown.org *Via Media is a pilot program for the Episcopal Church, demonstrating how combining both Catholic and Protestant traditions in a non-fundamentalist way can help individuals ask questions and seek answers on contemporary spiritual topics.

STEVIE Z

Lehigh Valley's own Stevie Z will be appearing at the Stonewall-Mooselounge on Fridays, August 20 and on Sept 17. Come gather around the grand piano and have some FUN. No cover charge before midnight. The charity for one half the tips in Aug/Sept will be PA-GALA. Come out and help support a worthy cause.

NEW KREIDER BOOK

In August, Roberta Kreider published her third book of faith stories from the GLBTA community. The Cost of Truth: Faith Stories of Mennonite and Brethren Leaders and Those Who Might Have Been (332 pages) can be ordered for \$24.00 + \$1.44 PA tax (postpaid) from Kreiders Books. [kreibers@netcarrier.com] or (215) 257-7322

PRIDE RETREAT

Those interested in GLV Pride participation in the upcoming year are invited to a growth, teambuilding and strategic planning exercise in the Poconos. Interested individuals wishing to join the board and current as well as interested committee members are encouraged to attend the Pride Retreat on Saturday, August 29. Email Pride President, Constance Kristofik at ckristofik@prideglv.org for more information.

CALENDAR

AA --AA meetins on Wednesdays at MCCLV,
Begin at 7:30pm
ACCO-A Chorus Celebrating Women,
AIDS Outreach-112 N. 5th St. Allentown, PA
610.435.8424

AIDSWALK- AIDSWALK Lehigh Valley -
610.974.8701 www.regiononline.com/laids
ASC-AIDS Service Center 610.974.8701
All Together Now - Supportive Ecumenical
Christians, 610-398-1286, bluemountain@
entermail.net

BMA- Bucks/Montgomery Alliance for Gay and
Lesbian Concerns 215-529-0360

B&N- Barnes and Noble Gay&Lesbian Book
Club, White Hall store, Monthly, 7:00pm

CIVIC and 19th St. Theater, 527 N 19th St, 610-
432-8943, <www.civicheater.com>

CUUPS--AT UUCLV

Enigma Players -- qacres@prolog.net
equal@agere- email: equal@agere.com
FACT- Fighting AIDS Continuously Together
610.820.5519

GLEE@Air Products

GLISN- at Dun & Bradstreet,
<www.vagranchollow.com/GLISN/>

GLORA- Gay and Lesbian Organization
of Reading and Allentown (Social gatherings,
various dates) Newsletter- The Tassle. Write to:
GLORA, PO Box 541, Bethlehem, PA 18016-
0541, email-GLORA2004@aol.com

GLOSS - Gay and Lesbian Organized Sports
Society, P.O.Box 21862 Lehigh Valley, PA 18002
610.434.2966.

GLOW@PPL

GMLV- Gay Men of the Lehigh Valley, 2nd
Saturdays Monthly 7pm, 610-709-8800

HAVEN GLBT Youth Group of the UUC LV-
call: 6 1 0 - 8 6 8 - 2 1 5 3 , e mail:
havenyouthgroup@hotmail.com

HMFF-Hope Ministry Family Fellowship,
Sundays, 11 am, Open Space Gallery, 931
Hamilton St. 610-791-0716

Integrity- Lesbian & Gay Episcopalians Family
& Friends meets quarterly. 610-758-8642
gamba.guy@verizon.net"

INTERWEAVE--AT UUCLV

LVGMC -Lehigh Valley Gay Men's Chorus,
email:info@lvgmc.org, <www.lvgmc.org>
610-366-3320, rehearsals: Wesley United
Methodist Church, 2540 Center St., Bethlehem

Lehigh Valley Transsexual Coalition- 610-
997-5474, humanrights4all@aol.com, 610-814-
0530 james30338874@aol.com

MCC - Metropolitan Community Church,
Merchants Square Mall, 1901 S. 12th Street,
Allentown Services: 10:30am & 6pm, mcclleigh
valley@yahoo.com, http://www.mcclv.org 610-
709-8800

NCC- Northampton Community College GLB
Student Union, 610.861.5541(#1386) or 882-
2531

19th St & Civic Theatre - 610.432.8943

Out There-Students at Cedar Crest College
OVOM-LV Documentary Film Org.

PA-GALA - PA Gay And Lesbian Alliance for
Political Action, (Candidate Info Booklet, &
Political Lobbying) For membership: send \$20
to: P.O.Box 20825 Lehigh Valley 18002
610.432.5449 pa-gala.org

PARENTS- GLBT parent's group: 610-262-2519

PFLAG - LV Parents Families & Friends of
Lesbians and Gays, 1st Tues. 1st Pres. Church
Allentown 6 1 0 . 9 6 7 . 5 2 1 9
<HTTP://www.eastern-pa-pflag.org/>

Pride - Pride of the Greater Lehigh Valley, (Pride
Festival) 610.770.6200, e mail:
<info@pridegv.org>, <www.pridelv.org>

QUEST- Student group at Lafayette College ,
<QuEST_Lafayette@hotmail.com>

AUGUST 2004

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3 LV PFLAG	4 M PFLAG	5	6	7 WDIY GLOSS
8 WDIY HMF UUCLV MCC	9 RAA	10 GLOSS MCC LVGMC	11 HAVEN AA	12 GLOSS RAA B&N BOOKCLUB	13	14 WDIY GLOSS Knoebels
15 HMFF WDIY MCC GLOSS PA-GALA Berks	16 RAA	17 LVGMC MCC	18 HAVEN AA	19 RAA GLOSS	20 StevieZ	21 GLOSS WDIY GLOSS MCC - GLORA CAMPOUT
22 HMFF GLOSS MCC WDIY UUCLV PA-GALA	23 RAA	24 PFLAG R LVGMC MCC	25 HAVEN AA	26 GLOSS PFLAG P RAA	27	28 WDIY GLOSS
29 WDIY UUCLV GLOSS HMFF MCC	30 RAA	31 GLOSS LVGMC MCC	HAVEN AA	RAA GLOSS		WDIY GLOSS

SEPTEMBER 2004

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 HAVEN AA	2 RAA ACCO GLOSS	3	4 GLOSS
5 UUCLV MCC	6 RAA	7 LV PFLAG MCC GLOSS LVGMC	8 HAVEN M PFLAG AA	9 RAA ACCO GLOSS B&N BOOKCLUB	10	11 GOLF GLOSS WDIY
12 FACT Summer Games	13 RAA	14 GLOSS LVGMC	15 HAVEN AA	16 ACCO RAA GLOSS	17 StevieZ	18 WDIY GLOSS
19 WDIY HMFF GLOSS UUCLV MCC	20 RAA	21 PFLAG R LVGMC GLOSS	22 HAVEN AA	23 ACCO RAA GLOSS	24	25 GLOSS WDIY
26 HMFF MCC BUS GLOSS WDIY	27 RAA	28	29 GLOSS LVGMC HAVEN	30 PRIDE ANNUAL MEETING		

OCTOBER 2004

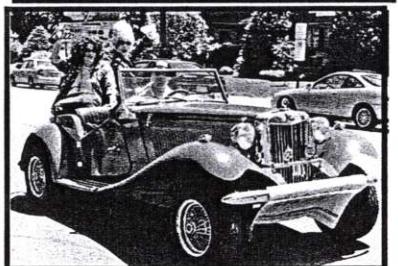
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	WDIY GLOSS
3 WDIY MCC UUCLV HMFF	4 RAA	5 GLOSS MCC LV PFLAG LVGMC	6 HAVEN AA M PFLAG	7 RAA GLOSS GLOSS SKATING B&N BOOKCLUB	8	9 WDIY GLOSS MCC DINNE
10 WDIY HMFF MCC UUCLV	11 RAA	12 LVGMC	13 HAVEN AA	14 RAA PFLAG P	15 QUEER FILMS	16 GLOSS WDIY
17 HMFF MCC WDIY UUCLV GLOS	18 RAA	19 GLOS PFLAG R LVGMC	20 HAVEN AA	21 RAA GLOS	22	23 WDIY GLOSS QUEER FILM
24 HMFF QUEER FIL UUCLV GLOSS WDIY MCC	25 GLSEN	26	27 HAVEN AA	28 RAA GLOS	29	30 WDIY GLOSS MCC DANCE

RADE & FESTIVAL



ns from the
the Lehigh
st time ever,
ment was
Mayor Phil
proclamation
Easton City
y.

Free Press
the Rainbow
representing
ght to retain
ance.



Officials who spoke from the stage
but who are not pictured include:
Democratic Candidate for Congress
for the 15th Congressional District
Joe Driscoll, Easton City Council-
woman Carole Heffley and
Allentown School Boardmember
Robert E. Smith Jr.



Pride Parade
Grand Marshall
Gwen Greenburg



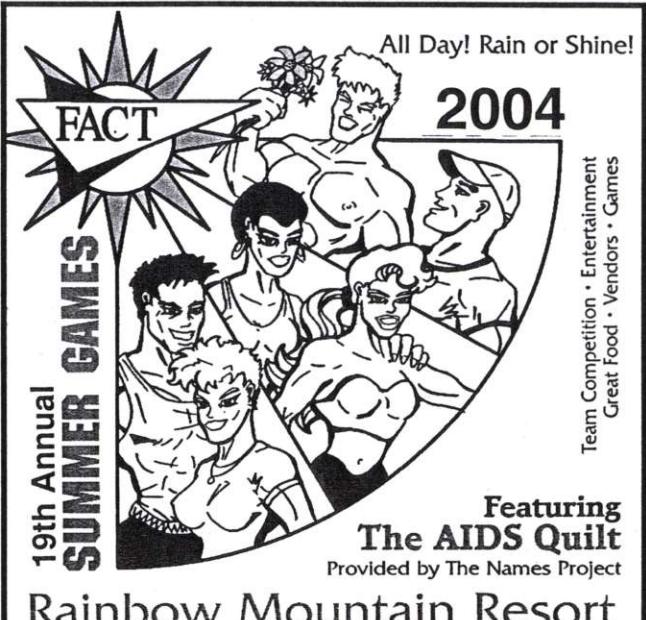
Pride Parade
Grand Marshall
James Halleman



Recipient of
the Rainbow
Medal
Attorney
Dan Anders

FACT SUMMER GAMES SEPTEMBER 12

D



Featuring
The AIDS Quilt
Provided by The NAMES Project

Rainbow Mountain Resort
in the Poconos

Sunday September 12, 2004
Opening Ceremonies 12:30 PM

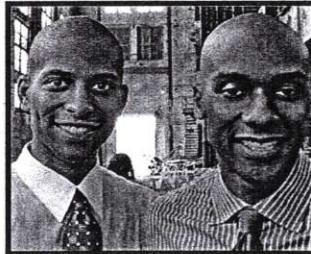
Tickets In Advance \$15.00
(Includes food & soda) Day of Event \$20.00

For Further Information, Call FACT at 610-820-5519
or write to FACT at P.O. Box 1028, Allentown, PA 18105



SHOWTIME'S AMERICAN CANDIDATE

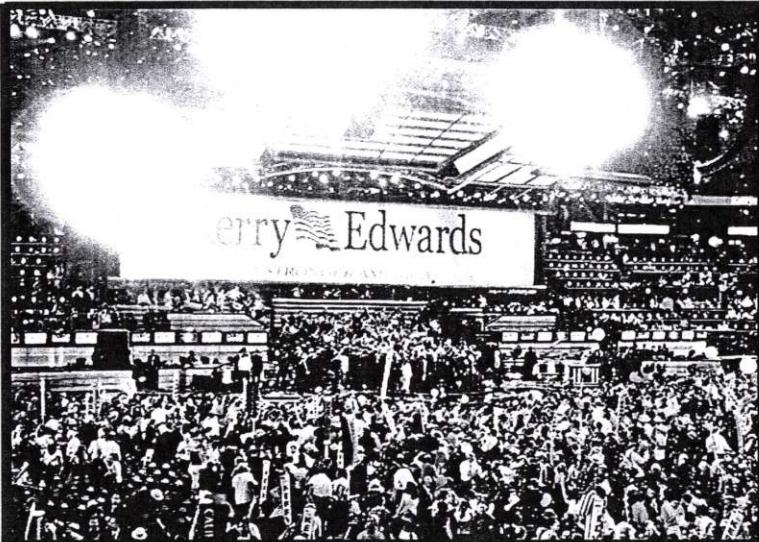
The "Allentown Episode" of the Showtime reality show American Candidate aired on August 15 and 17. Reporters from the Valley Free Press were featured asking a key question at the news conference. The question, which was about anti-GLBT discrimination in the workplace, was well answered by openly gay (mock) presidential candidate Keith Boykin. He was judged to do so well in the press conference that he "won" the aid of a political strategist for the rest of the shows.



Keith Boykin (right) survived this round of the voting, and is continuing on the show, while a conservative candidate was bumped. PA-GALA had endorsed Boykin. Everyone who "phone voted" for him, helped to keep him in the public eye, bringing GLBT issues to national attention.

"I AM DOING THIS TO REPRESENT THE PA GLBT COMMUNITY AND TO GET OTHER P

A



JOHN KERRY



ROB REINER SPEAKS TO THE GLBT CAUCUS



DONNA WITH GLENN CLOSE

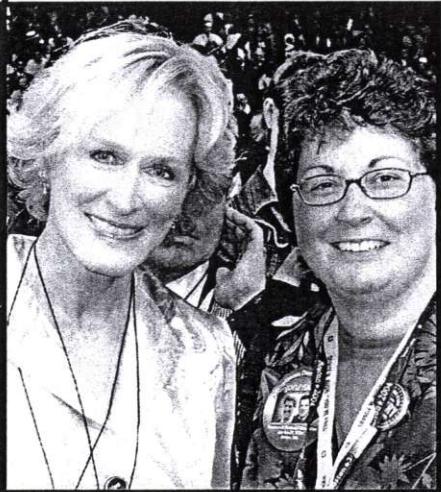


TERESA HEINZ KERRY
ADDRESSES THE GLBT CAUCUS



BEN AFFLECK

BILL CLINTON



CHERYL JACQUES OF HRC



BOBBY KENNEDY
AUTOGRAFS A
OF THE VALLEY FRI

NOTES FROM A BLOG -- DONNA CRUCIA

OPLE INVOLVED," DELEGATE TO THE DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION DONNA CRUCIANI



JOHN EDWARDS



JIMMY CARTER



B

(LEFT)
JAMES CARVELL
HAS DONNA'S
EAR

DONNA WITH PA. SENATE
CANDIDATE JOE HOEFFEL
(HOEFFEL IS RUNNING AGAINST SPECTER)

"I WAS SO PLEASED WITH
WHAT JOHN KERRY SAID.
HE HAS A LOT OF INTEGRITY."

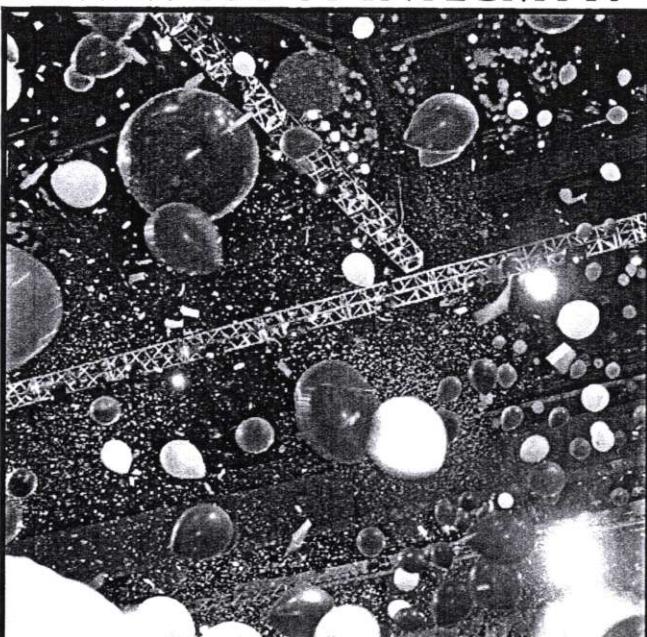
Photos by Donna Cruciani



I went from disappointment (that no one had addressed GLBT issues) to delight with the Democratic convention in the space of about two hours. The reason? Teresa Heinz Kerry. She made a surprise appearance Wednesday afternoon at the GLBT caucus meeting. Rep. Nancy Pelosi, the House Democratic leader, Gov. Bill Richardson of New Mexico, Rob Reiner & Ben Affleck were there too.

Richardson, the convention chairman, (said), "the GLBT community can no longer be put on the sidelines. You are a central part of the Democratic family."

But it was Teresa who stole the show. "You symbolize family, strength, hope, resilience, empowerment," she said. "You are pushing the envelope for a new time and day for cultural acceptance."



ANI AT THE DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION

GREATER LEHIGH VALLEY PRIDE PARADE

PARADE PHOTOS BY JOHN EARLY



The Greater Lehigh Valley Pride Festival was graced with great weather and a record attendance. The choice to move the festival to a different area of Cedar Beach park was a great success. Many considered this festival the best day in eleven years.

SPEAKERS FROM THE PRIDE STAGE INCLUDED:



Allentown
Mayor
Roy
Afflerbach



Lehigh County
Executive
Jane Ervin



Allentown City
Councilwoman
Gail Hoover



Allentown
City
Controller
Frank
Concannon



Allentown
School Board
Member
Charles Versaggi



Allentown
Human
Relations
Commission
Vice Chair
Allyson Hamm



Allentown
Human
Relations
Commissioner
Liz Bradbury



Delegate
Congressional
District
Dem. Convention
Donna Crucia

OTHER PHOTOS BY LIZ BRADBURY

Along with proclamations from the Mayor of Allentown and the Lehigh County Executive, for the first time, the Easton City Government was represented at the festival. Mayor Mitman personally sent a proclamation which was presented by Easton Councilwoman Carole Heffley.

PA-GALA and the Valley Free Press presented Dan Anders with the Rainbow Award medal. Dan is the Attorney representing the City of Allentown in its fight against the anti-discrimination ordinance.

Quakers-Lehigh Valley Friends Meeting-Route 512 1/2 mi. North of Rte 22 Bethlehem, PA.
Worship at 9:30 am. (610)691-3411.

RAA- Rainbow AA meetings, Mon. & Thurs.
At 16th and Turner.

Ren- Renaissance Transgendered Assoc., Meets at MCCLV renlv.org

Rainbow Space - Muhlenberg College Organization 610.821.3244

Reading P-FLAG 610-967-5219

Safe Space-At Lehigh U. 610.758.5973

Saint John's Lutheran Church- A welcoming, gay affirming church, 32 S. 5th st. Allentown 610.435.1587

Softball-(Women's) call Diamonz, 610.865.1028

Spectrum- at Lehigh Univ., 610.758.5973 T.O. - Theatre Outlet-29Nth St, Allentown, 610-820-9270.

Unity-26 N. 3rd St. Emmaus, 767-4417

UUCLV - Unitarian Universalist Church LV, 424 Center St., Bethlehem, 18018 610.866.7652.

VFP - Valley Free Press, 610.432.5449, liztrish@aol.com

YVH - Valley Youth House for emotionally troubled GLBT youth 610.432.6481

Wachovia-GALEA- Gay And Lesbian Employee Association. ContactGALEA@Wachovia.com

WDIY - WDIY - 88.1 fm 93.9 fm Sat. 6:00 pm This Way Out, Assorted Women 6:30 pm. 610-694-8100.

SPECIAL UPCOMING EVENTS:

GLBT YOUTH GROUP

HAVEN - WEDNESDAYS

LV BEARS - 1ST SATURDAYS

GAY MEN-LV - 2ND SATURDAYS

LV PFLAG - 1ST TUESDAYS

MONROE PFLAG -

1ST THURSDAYS

READING -

PFLAG 3RD TUESDAYS

POTTSVILLE PFLAG

- 3RD THURSDAYS

GLOSS VOLLEYBALL -TUESDAYS

GLSEN - IS ON BREAK

GLOSS TENNIS -SUNDAYS -

GLOSS RACQUETBALL

-TUES & SATS

GLOSS BOWLING - 2ND FRIDAYS

AUG 12 - B & N GLBT BOOKCLUB

AUG 14 - GAY DAY @ KNOEBELS

AUG 20 - MCC/GLORA CAMPOUT

AUG 20

STEVIEZ @ MOOSELOUNGE

AUG 22 - PA-GALA BERKS MTG

AUG 29 - CUUPS MTG

AUG 29 - PRIDE RETREAT

SEPT 7 - ALLENTOWN PFLAG

SEPT 8 - MONROE PFLAG

SEPT 11 - RAINBOW GOLF NT

SEPT 12 - FACT SUMMER GAMES

SEPT 17 -

STEVIEZ @ MOOSELOUNGE

SEPT 21 - READING PFLAG

SEPT 30 - PRIDE ANNUAL MTG

OCT 2 - PA-GALA FUNDRAISER

OCT 5 - ALLENTOWN PFLAG

OCT 6 - MONROE PFLAG

OCT 7 - GLOSS SKATING

OCT 9 - MCCLV DINNER

OCT 14 - AHRC AWARDS DINNER

OCT 15,16,22,23 -

QUEER FILM FESTIVAL

OCT 19 - READING PFLAG

OCT 30 - MCCLV DANCE

**INFORMATION SUBJECT TO
CHANGE!
TO POST INFO: 610-432-5449
LIZTRISH@AOL.COM**

LEHIGH VALLEY QUEER FILM FESTIVAL

-- October 15, 16 22, 23, 2004 :

Lehigh University : Bethlehem, PA --

JOIN HANDS:

Embracing Same-Sex Marriage in'04!

Pride of the Greater Lehigh Valley provides the community access to films dealing with a wide variety of issues related to sexuality, sexual orientation, gender and gender identity.. This fall, at a minimal cost, festival attendees can view a diverse collection of films, including: experimental, shorts, documentaries, and feature length attractions.

JOIN HANDS is representative of the importance of queer unions and marriage in the larger political and social climate surrounding the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex community in Pennsylvania and the US. Visit www.prdeigv.org/filmfest.htm for complete details and program updates.

PA-GALA IN BERKS

The Pennsylvania Gay And Lesbian Alliance (PA-GALA) will hold a Berks County Organizational Meeting on Sunday, August 22 at 7 pm. at the Lois Herr For Congress Berks County Office located at 2727 North 5th Street in Reading. Office phone: 610-921-0731(call for directions).

The meeting will focus on GLBT grassroots political organizing in Berks County - concentrating on voter registration, get out the vote efforts for November and building community support for passage of a statewide lgbt civil rights bill, defeat of anti-lgbt amendments in Harrisburg and eventual marriage equality in Pennsylvania.

Lois Herr is the PA-GALA endorsed candidate in the 16th Congressional District. Her campaign has graciously allowed PA-GALA to use her office for this important meeting. For more information contact PA-GALA Political Director - Steve Black: pagala@epix.net or 610-863-0227.

RANTS & RAVES BY STEPHEN T. LIBBY

Diary of a Gay Summer (...So Far)

--Sunday, June 14: Dear Diary, What a great weekend. Stayed with Tanya and Leno last night after going out in Philly for Pride Fest Eve. Shawn and I and a few of our friends hit the city and the bars. Today we were a little hung, so missed most of the parade but stayed for their festival. Diamonz made a good showing with their gay marriage themed float. New locale this year; a penned in parking lot vs Penn's Landing from previous years.

Also new, was a \$5 cover presumably to pay for (very funny) performer, Sandra Bernhard. Shawn got her autograph. He also fell in love with a stripper he refers to as "Tom." I refer to them both as "Trash". I have photos of "Trash" if anyone cares to see them. Gay Rating: 3 Rainbow Flags (Out of Four).

--Sunday, June 21: AKA Father's Day. Lehigh Valley Pride started with a positively proud parade down Hamilton Blvd and into the front side of Cedar Beach Park. We are no longer relegated to the rear, at least not as far as the festival goes (wink,wink). And what a difference it made!!!

The parade was inspiring and the festival was the best of all we attended this month. James Hallerman and Gwen Greenberg were the king and queen of the prom, I mean co-grand marshals. Everyone in the parade was gorgeous and had tons of spirit. The entertainers were incredible, especially the kids performing with their drag-parents!!! And our puppy, Max, loved it. Gay Rating: 4 Rainbow Flags

--Sunday, June 29: AKA The day we saw Janet Jackson! Made it into NYC just in time to see the start of the parade at 2pm. 4 1/2 hours later we had seen Carson Kressley, RuPaul, Harvey Fierstein, some reality show contestants and lots of scantily clad men and women with high energy.

The festival was a mix and mash of food and wares. We ate some and headed to the pier party to dance and await the arrival of the surprise guest. Per Shawn, the likes of Britney, Madonna and Christina have performed in past years.

A few Smirnoff Razz's later, at about 9:40pm, Miss-Janet-If-Your-Nasty took the stage. A wave of 2,000+ bare-chested gay men pressed us up against the fence (this was better than all my prison fantasies combined). She made some gay-friendly comments and reported she is a catcher (who would've thunk it?) before belting out a couple of hits. The crowd loved her. We especially loved her because if not for the fencing, we could have literally touched her. On the way back to the hotel we ran into James, the star of Boy Meets Boy and he posed for some photos with us. Dear Diary, maybe Jessica Simpson will come to LV Pride next year. Please, please, please!! I'll be a good gay all year and stop calling my husband "Trash," if you can make it happen. Gay Rating: 4 Rainbow Flags

--Sunday, July 4: Some friends invited us to Provincetown to celebrate our Independence. Apparently I thought they meant independence from my consciousness and I passed out at the A-House after 8hrs of drinking on an empty stomach. Nothing sadder than a 40 year old gay man behaving like a 19 year old frat boy who has regressed to a 5 year old spoiled brat. Anyway, the food was great and the fireworks even better. Heard rumors that a few gay celebs were milling about but never saw them. We did catch Naked Boys Singing (which is not like catching a cold or pneumonia). It was very funny and I highly recommend it. Note to self:suggestNBS to Bill Sanders for next season at the Civic Theatre. Gay Rating: 3 1/2 Rainbow Flags for what I am able to remember. I hope you are all having a happy summer. Let the gay times roll!! Smooches, Steve

PLANET

Parenthood

by Earl and Donnie Snyder
donnieearlucas@msn.com

HUH?

Many out lesbians and gay men have experienced unpleasant stares, rude remarks, and sometimes, unprovoked violence. Is it any wonder it is difficult for many to come out? Still, coming out is the way to go, as there is safety in numbers and it provides a connection to a very strong support system.

As a subset of the LGBT population, lesbian and gay parents face the same challenges as other LGBT people, but also a variety of verbal assaults regarding their abilities as or right to be parents, usually in the form of rude questions.

We have found the best way to deal with these questions is with creative answers and a touch of humor. Some examples of questions we have faced and the answers we have given include:

Q: Are you going to raise your son gay?

A: No. But wouldn't it be cool if he were? And if he is straight, we will give him all of our love and support and let him know that it's OK.

Q: Don't you feel every child needs a mother as well?

A: Yes, if it weren't for his mother he never would've been born.

Q: Which one of you is the mother and which is the father?

A: Huh?

Q: Will he ever get to know his real parents?

A: When he gets tired of his imaginary parents, I'm sure he'll be anxious to learn all about us.

Q: Will you tell him you're gay and what will you say?

A: When he asks, we'll say we're 'gay' unless you think 'homosexual' is better.

Alternate A: We told him the day we brought him home from the hospital...and so far, he's OK with it.

Those are a few of the common questions. Who asks? Family, co-workers, friends. Non LGBT, usually. Maybe because we are raising the children that they can't or won't. Maybe because they are curious. Maybe because they can't figure out the answers on their own. Maybe because we are moving in on their territory, to which they held sole rights for so many years... and they're scared. They fear gay parents as much as they fear same-sex marriage. Some new phobias to add to the official psychiatric list? There are meds for those, aren't there?

GLBT HOTLINE TO BEGIN

The GLBT Hotline of the Greater Lehigh Valley is seeking volunteers. All volunteers will be professionally trained in October, 2004. The Hotline will begin in November. For applications: email GLBThotline@hotmail.com or call Tim at 610-216-7947 or stop by MCCLV, Stonewall or DiamonZ to pick up a paper application. The GLBT Hotline is in the process of becoming a non-profit organization under the auspice of the new Pennsylvania Diversity Network.

For those who wish to receive an application to be a resource (to receive referrals from the Hotline), please contact Robert at robert.a.roush@verizon.net or call 610-821-0578. Resources may be non-profit OR commercial businesses.

MCCLV TO HOST DANCES

MCCLV will be hosting "5th Saturday of the month dances" in the coming year. The next dance will be a Halloween dance on Saturday, Oct. 30, from 7-11 p.m. Costume optional. Location: MCCLV, 1901 S. 12th St., Allentown. \$5.00 donation. For info: Allen Ziegler, ALLENFRED4967@webtvnet or call MCC.

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SCOTT SAYS

By Scott Laubner



HELLO STONEWALL

Anyone who has visited the Stonewall recently is bound to see changes that have taken place at Allentown's gay landmark. This is the work of new owners, Raymond Curry and Lee Doucett. Ray and Lee are partners in business as well as partners in life. I have heard the Stonewall has not been gay owned in decades, so I think this is a reason to be estatic and break out into show tunes. *Hello, Stonewall. Well, hello, Stonewall. It's so nice to have you back where you belong!*

This queer about town writer had a chance to talk to Ray and ask about the future of the homo icon on tenth street. Ray talked about a robust new attitude for the bar management that includes a willingness to try new ideas and a nostalgic return to the best parts of the old days. Plans include revamping the downstairs, to make it clean and presentable, repainting the walls and regrouting the tiles. Upstairs the hard wood (floors) will be refinished. Also there are plans to build a small stage for the piano so the piano player can be seen from the bar. The front cabaret area could be sealed off with portable doors. When that section is closed off it could be used for community meetings or fundraisers.

Ray and Lee are very interested in supporting the community. The Stonewall brought Ari Gold to Allentown's Pride in the Park festival in June. The bar will also sponsor a Team Stonewall and Team Moose Lounge at the Summer Games at Rainbow Mountain.

When asked about bringing the crowds back to the bar, Ray threw out a bunch of novel ideas. Carol Ann has already been invited back for BingoRama on Tuesdays. To all folks who have been going through Karaoke withdrawal; good news it is back again on Sundays! And look for entertainers and even some tasteful go-go boys from as far away as New York and Washington. I was told there are going to be some surprises, there are more tricks up Ray's sleeve.

I want to wish Ray and Lee the very best of luck with their new colossal endeavor.

GAY MEN'S CHORUS NEWS

The Lehigh Valley Gay Men's Chorus has had a busy summer in 2004. In June, the chorus released its second compact disc entitled "Slices."

In July, the chorus traveled to Montreal, Canada to participate in the GALA 2004 International Choral Festival attended by more than 120 choral organizations from around the world.

On August 31, the members of the chorus will proudly start rehearsals for their 10th concert season, under the direction of Interim Artistic Director Adam Koch with rehearsals and a post-rehearsal social. The chorus rehearses every Tuesday evening from 7 PM to 9:30 PM at Wesley United Methodist Church, 2540 N. Center St., Bethlehem, PA. The public is invited to attend this rehearsal and the post-rehearsal social to learn how to help the chorus achieve its goal of excellence through the choral arts by becoming a singing member, a 5th Section member or concert sponsor. The chorus welcomes singers who are tenor or bass voiced and anyone who is supportive of GLBT issues.

View the web site at www.lvgmc.org for chorus history, or to order your copy of "Slices" and other LVGMC merchandise. Contact the chorus at info@lvgmc.org, 610-366-3320 or by mail at 20712 Lehigh Valley, PA 18002-0712.



LIZ OUT LOUD

LETTERS By *Liz Bradbury*

In June, Melinda Kohn of PFLAG promoted a series of public library displays of GLBT books to celebrate Pride month. Included in the displays were issues of the June Valley Free Press. As a result, hundreds of people who had never seen the VFP before, got a chance to read it. Among the hundreds was a person who felt the need to write anonymously to VFP Editor Liz Bradbury (me) to criticize most of the paper and to express (her? - the writer used purple pen and dotted the "I's with a circle) anti-GLBT background.

The letter writer equated gay people with liars and murderers. She quoted Bible verses that she interpreted to support her point of view (and left out verses that might notie: Love Thy Neighbor As Yourself -- or my favorite story of Ruth and Naomi in the book of Ruth). She said she is not prejudice (sic) because she has a "very informed and knowledgeable reason for her opinion that homosexuality is wrongly/sin and a choice/unnatural" (sic). She didn't explain her reason.

The letter was very critical of Scott Laubner's column (he wrote about the Haven Prom), and Trish Sullivan's column (she wrote about the Birmelin amendments, and about the State Representatives who are trying to sue a same-sex couple just because they said they might try to contest the ban on same-sex marriage) and Steve Libby's column. She wondered if Steve's entire life revolves around sex -- well OK, she got that right... No, I'm kidding, in reality, Steve's article addressed some serious civil rights concerns.

Her criticism of all the columns was that it is wrong to call people who focus their efforts on removing or banning the equal rights of GLBT people intolerant or hateful. She felt that any time one of us suggested that a person campaigning to remove GLBT rights was a bigot, we were in fact saying all heterosexual people were bigots. Huh?

Nope, that is not what we are all saying. We are saying we want the same rights as everyone else, and when people try to keep others from having equal rights, especially when they distort facts to support their intolerance, they are bigots. The definitions of bigot is: One who is strongly partial to one's own group, religion, race, or politics and is intolerant of those who differ. -- Well, if the hood fits, wear it.

It's interesting that the anonymous writer didn't comment on my article. I wrote about my old friend Jean Church, who died this year of cancer just two years after adopting an 'throw-away' child from a foreign country, and whose partner of 15 years would receive no social security support because same-sex marriage is not legally recognized in her state or this country.

I guess this letter writer couldn't find a Bible verse to condemn Jean's generous spirit, or untimely death. And I guess she couldn't find any "very informed or knowledgeable reason" to criticize my concern that the lack of civilly recognized same-sex marriage in this country has denied Jean's surviving family the state and federal support that any opposite sex parent would unquestioningly receive.

I too am strongly partial to my own opinions. So what makes me and the rest of us different from this person or the hateful people we criticize in our columns? Simple, none of us have any interest in or commitment to taking away or denying other people or groups fundamental human or civil rights.

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TRISH'S COLUMN DON'T FALL FOR THIS PLOY

By Patricia Sullivan



I watched the Congressional debates on same-sex marriage. The House of Representatives passed the Marriage Protection Act by a vote of 233 -194. The Senate vote on cloture failed 50 - 48. This legislation, if passed by both the House and Senate would have prevented federal courts, including the Supreme Court, from reviewing the Defense of Marriage Act. The Senate vote temporarily forestalled it.

During a debate recess, a group of Republican Congressmen held a press conference in the Capital Rotunda with several conservative black ministers and their supporters who had come to protest same-sex marriage. These ministers said granting same-sex marriage rights would "legislate immorality" and for the Congress to consider same-sex marriage rights was an insult to the black community and diminished the struggles of the civil rights movement. I was offended, no, I was incensed that another minority who had to fight for their right to marry the person of their choice, would seek to deny that right to others. I felt anger toward these ministers. I wondered how many black voters felt likewise. Suddenly, I wasn't thinking about the legislators who had the audacity to debate our civil rights, I was reassessing my beliefs about the agenda of another minority group. Not African Americans I know personally, of course, but the ones I didn't. How racist is that? And then I had an Ah Ha! I had just fallen for one of the most basic of divisive political tactics - divide and conquer. This was the reason the conservative congressmen held this press conference. And I almost fell for it.

When Liz and I participated in Showtime's "American Candidate," we interviewed Keith Boykin, President of the National Black Justice Coalition. He is black, openly gay and the candidate we endorsed for the reality show campaign. Part of the mission of the National Black Justice Coalition is to further the message: If discrimination is written into the Constitution no one will be safe from discrimination. According to Keith, the white religious right has worked hard to exploit perceived differences between blacks and gays in this election. The religious right recruits homophobic black ministers who have no national reputation and holds them out as representing the black community. People see them on television and see their words in print and attribute their narrow perspective to the black community at large.

Polls find that the majority of African Americans, like the majority of gay men and lesbians, oppose discrimination. There are many respected black leaders, U.S. Congressman and Civil Rights leader John Lewis, Coretta Scott King, the Rev. Joe Lowery, Julian Bond Chairman of the NAACP and presidential candidates Al Sharpton and Carol Moseley Braun who have spoken eloquently in opposition to a Marriage Amendment and in support of our civil rights.

This is a very divisive time and we have to be vigilant and listen for the unspoken messages that are carefully orchestrated by far right conservatives. It is not the African American community that is trying to take away our rights. It is far right Republicans that introduced discriminatory legislation and it is those same people who are manufacturing this rift between GLBT people and African Americans, and they are doing it solely for political gain. We must not fall for it. We must not blame anyone other than those introducing these divisive laws and amendments.

In a recent Lambda Legal interview Keith Boykin spoke directly to this issue: "The movements may not be the same, but the arguments against change are identical... (And) at the end of the day, it doesn't matter which group is first oppressed or most oppressed or whether they are identically oppressed. What matters is that no group of people should be oppressed."

POP QUIZ

8

1. Which recently deceased African American gay celebrity was in a lifelong partner relationship with set designer Charles Gillian Jr.? A. Rick James B. Ray Charles C. Paul Winfield D. Miles Davis

2. In the 1984 movie "Mike's Murder," Paul Winfield played a man distraught over his ex-lover's death. Many believe Winfield helped to make this movie because it: A. was autobiographical B. supported hate crimes legislation C. was written by his son D. supported same-sex relationships

3. _____ was quoted as saying "I too have had homosexual experiences and am not ashamed..." in his 1985 biography. A. Marlon Brando B. Tony Randall C. Rock Hudson D. Tony Curtis

4. Since the legalization of same-sex marriage in Canada, how many of the 3000 same-sex married couples have sought divorce? A. 1 B. 5 C. 37 D. 49

5. Who said of same-sex marriage, "I don't see a purpose in denying people access to a right that most of us take for granted." A. Ben Affleck B. Ron Reagan Jr. C. Jimmy Carter D. Whoopie Goldberg

6. "Why do birds sing so gay?" Is from:
A. "Why Do Fools Fall in Love" B. "Tell Me Why"
C. "Swing on a Star" D. "Hey There"

7. While the Allentown anti-discrimination law is under appeal in the courts, the law will:
A. stay in effect B. not be in effect

8. The Cole Porter biography movie which covers Porter's sexual orientation fairly honestly is called:
A. Cole B. Night & Day C. Daddy D. Delovely

9. The crowd at this year's Greater Lehigh Valley Pride Festival was estimated to be more than:
A. 1000 B. 2000 C. 3000 D. 4000

10. Senator Arlen Specter voted against cloture of the (anti-gay) Federal Marriage Amendment, which was seen as a vote supporting the anti-gay amendment to the Constitution. This was a shock to activists because he had said before the primary that he would not support a Constitutional ban. A. True B. False

11. C. 2.A. 3.A. 4.A. 5.B. 6.A. 7.A. 8.D. 9.D. 10.A.

"Many had hoped Specter would honor what he told a room full of LGBT activists in Philadelphia when he said that he would not support an amendment to the Constitution to ban same-sex marriage, but in the vote just moments ago he voted with Frist and Santorum in a vote that Frist clearly said was a vote for excluding same-sex marriage rights."

- PA-GALA Press Release about Specter's vote on the anti-gay Federal Marriage Amendment

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We believe it would improve the quality of life in the Lehigh Valley if all people were equally protected from unfair discrimination based upon actual or perceived race, color, ethnicity, religion, national origin, ancestry or place of birth, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, family status, age, disability, or use of a guide animal, in the areas of employment, housing, and public accommodation.

PA-GALA

Valley Free Press

Allentown Human Relations Commission

Safe-Space of Lehigh University

PFLAG Lehigh Valley

ACCO - A Chorus Celebrating Women

GLORA

Pride of the GLV

LV Gay Men's Chorus

NCC GLBT Student Union

The Lehigh Valley Labor Party

EQUAL! at Agere

Metropolitan Community Church LV

OutThere - Cedar Crest

9th Street Shelter Allentown

LV Community Action Committee

GLEE at Air Products

FACT

AIDS Outreach

The Unitarian Universalist Church LV

GLOSS

LEPOCO

GLISN of Dun & Bradstreet

AIDS Services Center

Theatre Outlet

Integrity - Bethlehem

The Lehigh Valley Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

Civic Theater 19th Street Theatre

The Latin Alliance

The Enigma Players

New Covenant Family Ministries

Properties of Merit

Allentown City Democratic Committee

Episcopal Diocese of Bethlehem

Puerto Rican Cultural Alliance

Turning Point of the Lehigh Valley

Muhlenberg Theater Association

Crime Victims Council of the Lehigh Valley

To add your organization to this list, Contact VFP

QUOTE #1

"If it's simply a question of living together in a committed relationship, someone could live with their dog and be married." -- Anti-gay PA State Rep. Jerry Birmelin

QUOTE #2

Teaching about condoms doesn't increase sexual activity and certainly doesn't increase unprotected sex, but abstinence-only ed does both. For example, a Minnesota Department of Health study of the state's five-year, abstinence-only program found last year that sexual activity by students taking the (abstinence only) program actually doubled, from 5.8 percent to 12.4 percent.
-- Doug Ireland, LA Weekly

QUOTE #3

"Everyone should be protected against this kind of discrimination, regardless of where they live in Pennsylvania or the type of charter or home rule law that governs their community. Most people understand that it is unfair to fire someone just for being gay, for example. Pennsylvania also needs to be competitive for people and businesses, or we will lose out to states like New Jersey, New York and Maryland, which already ban some or all of these types of discrimination."

-- State Rep. Jennifer Mann, D-Lehigh, on the court ruling that struck down Allentown's anti-discrimination law, further saying it shows the need to pass statewide legislation to ban discrimination against gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered people.

QUOTE #4

Santorum said: "I would argue that the future of our country hangs in the balance because the future of marriage hangs in the balance. Isn't that the ultimate homeland security, standing up and defending marriage?"

DeWeese concluded: "Obviously Rick Santorum is out of touch with the majority of Americans regarding our country's top priorities. Instead, people like Rick Santorum are trying to divide our country so that no one will focus on four years of failed policies by the Bush/Cheney administration." -- Pennsylvania House Democratic Leader Bill DeWeese responding to Senator Rick Santorum

Distelfink[©]
by RubyZebu 10/04 "A New Musical"



The closet is no protection

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